

CORPS' PONDENT

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*District leaders visited
Round Butte Dam's new
temperature control tower
and fish handling facility.
Photo by Diane Fredlund*



Corps of Engineers Photo



Applying a systems approach to navlock repairs

We often talk about applying a “systems approach” to our water management efforts. For example, how we operate individual dams in the Willamette Basin isn’t nearly as important as how we operate all of them together – tailoring releases at each to ensure consistency along the whole river.

Water isn’t the only thing that requires a systems approach to effectively manage. Navigation on the Columbia and Snake rivers needs it, too.

That’s never been more the case than right now, because all the navigation locks on the Columbia and Snake rivers need significant repairs. We’re talking about having to take each of them out of commission for months, not weeks like we usually do.

The tugboat operators are concerned, but supportive of our proactive maintenance planning. They understand the condition of our navlocks, and want the certainty and predictability that fully-restored facilities will offer.

But the tugboat operators also want the entire system overhauled at once, so they and their customers have a minimum disruption of service.

They’re saying to us, “If you’re going to close the river for months, we hope you will



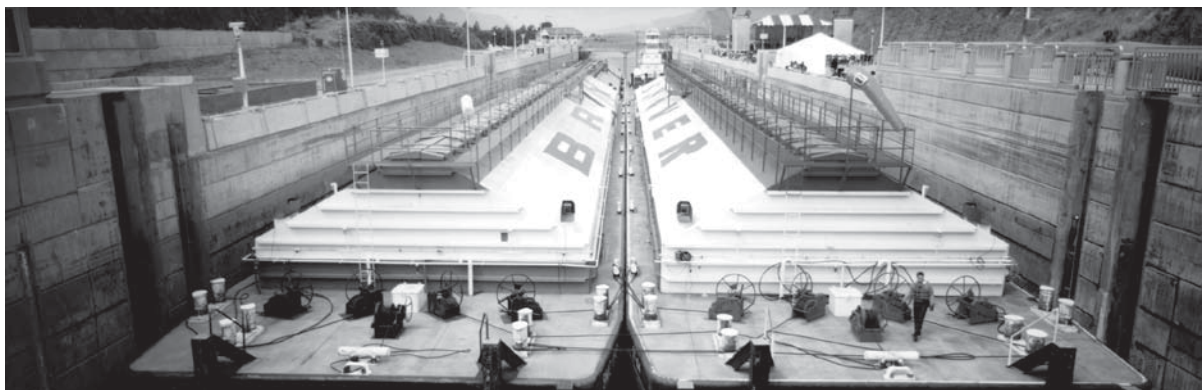
Col. Steven R. Miles, P.E.

complete all the repairs at these facilities as quickly as possible. We want this time used to maximum efficiency, because our livelihood depends on your ability to maintain the locks.”

So Deputy District Engineer Kevin Brice and his program and project managers are working closely with Walla Walla District, the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, the Columbia River Towboat Association and other partners to plan 5-10 years out, aligning funding, manpower, material and other resources so that all of the navlocks can be overhauled on the same schedule.

It’s a huge challenge, but one that I’m confident that we’ll overcome by applying a systems approach.

On another note, one upcoming change to our own leadership system is our sendoff of outgoing Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar and welcome of his replacement, Lt. Col. Steve Capps, who is coming to us from USACE Headquarters. Lt. Col. Aguilar has been here for only a short time, but he made a big impact. Read more about him on the next page.



Short stay, big impact: District bids farewell to deputy commander

By Scott Clemans, Public Affairs Office

Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar will leave Portland May 8 to assume command of the Hunter Army Airfield garrison in Savannah, Ga.

Aguilar was deputy commander for only 15 months, but District Commander Col. Steven R. Miles said his impact was much larger than the length of his stay.

"We knew that Col. Aguilar would probably only be able to stay here for a short time," Miles said. "But we made that short-term investment, and it paid big dividends. He provided strong leadership to the District during the transition between Col. O'Donovan and me."

Miles said that one of Aguilar's most important contributions was in his role as chief of the District's support staff.

"It's easy to stay in the office and drive your desk, but Col. Aguilar visited and stayed connected to the field offices and projects, finding out what he and the staff elements that support the field could do to be more relevant," Miles said.

Aguilar said that one of his best memories of his job was responding to the incident when a barge struck the upstream gate of the John Day navigation lock.

"I realized what great people we had here in the District," he said. "Getting the middle of the night phone call, mounting up on patrol to lend a hand, and having the feeling that the team has your back for the entire engagement."



Lt. Col. Jose Aguilar

Miles pointed out that Aguilar's personal story is as compelling as his professional competence.

A native of central Mexico, Aguilar and his family moved to Houston, Texas, when he was nine years old. His commitment to military service grew first from family expectations to serve one's country, and later from his desire for an education.

"Col. Aguilar has been a key player and instrumental leader in our Army, and he's done hard work recently, deploying twice to Iraq before joining us here in Portland," Miles said.

"But he isn't just a good Soldier and a good deputy – he's a good parent, husband and father, too," Miles added. "We thank him for his service, and his wife, Suzanne, and their three children, Jocelyn, Allison and Joey, for their selflessness in agreeing to come here for such a short time."

Aguilar said that being able to spend time with his family in Portland after 15 months in Iraq was a benefit of his time here.

"My biggest regret is having to leave the District after such a short time, and making my family go through yet another move," he said.

The District expects to welcome new Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Steve Capps April 27.



DEPUTY'S FAREWELL

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Commander: Col. Steven R. Miles, P.E.
Chief, Public Affairs: Matt Rabe
Editor: Scott Clemans



Diving specialist acquires new interests in Iraq

By Rick Haverinen, Gulf Region Division

BALAD, Iraq – A Portland District aquatic expert who has acquired a wide range of job skills is finishing up a deployment to Iraq by helping local children's education.

"I started out as a jet engine mechanic in the Air Force, and then I worked for a company that made precision aircraft parts. I was injured on the job and was retrained in mechanical engineering technology," said Susan Fox, a construction representative in the Gulf Region Division's North District. "Here I am now in Iraq doing quality assurance, and I had the opportunity to put together a dive operation to assist the Iraqi people with irrigation and power generation."

A few years ago Fox was a mechanical engineering technician for Portland District, doing AutoCAD drawings at the district's boat moorings.

"I started writing maintenance specifications for our dredge that goes in annually for overhaul," Fox said, "and then I started writing contract specs for work the dredge needed in the shipyard. I'd go to the shipyard and run around all over the ship. Whatever work I had written repairs to be done on the dredge, I would follow up in the field and report back to my supervisor."

Fox will go from memories of July heat in Al Asad, Iraq, to possibly plunge into the cool springtime temperatures of the Columbia River. Fox's full-time occupation is Portland District's deputy diving coordinator.

"I help manage the dive program, enforce safety regulations, review dive plans and credentials," Fox said.

Fox's work with Portland District now tends to be more supervisory than going into the water herself, although she certainly has the experience to do so. She first took the plunge as a recreational aquanaut and her current job in Portland included an extensive diving course in Key West, Fla.



Susan Fox puts on a safety harness prior to climbing to the top of one of two, one-million gallon water tanks in May 2008. The new tanks at Al Asad, Iraq, are tied into an underground cistern system constructed during Saddam's regime. Photo courtesy of GRD



Student Susan Fox suits up for a surface supplied air dive March 2004 at her in Key West, Fla., school. Photo courtesy of Susan Fox



Fox's knowledge led her to be tapped to put together a dive mission at Haditha Dam in November 2008.

"The biggest concern to the customer was the dam was constructed in the 1980s, and it had never been inspected," Fox said.



Susan Fox discusses roof joists in May 2008 with a site engineer about 30 feet from the ground on a 1-million gallon water tank in Al Asad, Iraq. Photo courtesy of GRD

The actual job in the water went to members of the U.S. Army's 74th Engineer Dive Team. Fox said she has worked with some of the same Army divers back in Portland District.

There were significant safety concerns beyond those divers normally have to think about. A sizable armed security team accompanied Fox and the divers to the work site.

"In Portland District, it would just be the team on the dive station, maybe a crane operator, and project personnel needed here and there for maybe installing a bulkhead in the dam, so that the diver could get down to safely do the in-water work," Fox said, "but as far as the dam itself, and doing an underwater inspection, it's pretty much the same."

The lessons learned from the assignment are leading to new safety procedures for future diving operations in Iraq.

Fox's projects have included building runways and taxiways at Joint Base Balad, and potable

water tanks and overhead electrical transmission lines at Al Asad.

Fox waited for her kids, ages 20 and 25, to be out of the house before considering a deployment.

"I raised my kids as a single mother, and I was active duty for 10 years," Fox said. "So now the nest is empty, and I thought, 'There's nothing stopping me from going now.' So I volunteered for numerous reasons, to combat terrorism, to help the Iraqi people and really just personal growth, too.

"I think we've done a lot of really good things over here. When I send newsletters home to friends and family, they're totally amazed that we're doing the stuff that we're doing and they never hear about it. We're making changes. It's very slow to change culture. That's not going to happen overnight, but I think we're showing the Iraqis the possibilities. It's the best thing we can do because it opens their eyes to see what's available to them and their future."

Perhaps because she is a mother, Fox has been especially drawn to the young Iraqis she has met.

"I've sent a request home and I think I had 10 or 12 boxes of school supplies within just a couple weeks at Al Asad, ready to give out to the kids," Fox said. "I showed them some photos that we had taken of the existing conditions that the children were going to school in. From contacts and word of mouth and the email, there were school supplies coming even from other states. So it's easy to motivate people if you just get the word out."



Susan Fox and her children Josh, 21, and Krista, 16, visit a favorite family location for generations, Cannon Beach on the northern Oregon coast, in July 2004. Photo courtesy of Susan Fox





Ten things I believe to be true

By Brig. Gen. William E. Rapp, Commander, Northwestern Division

Editor's note: During Brig. Gen. Rapp's visits to Portland District in December, he shared his command philosophy with District leaders. Here's the short version – expanded explanations for each are available on the "Commander's Page" of the Division's intranet site at <https://w3.nwd.usace.army.mil>.

- ◆ Our workforce is hungry for good, strong, caring leadership.
- ◆ Learning doesn't stop with a degree – to remain relevant requires a commitment to lifelong learning.
- ◆ Collaboration and a collegial approach may be slower, but achieves more lasting effect on complex issues.
- ◆ Proactivity pays huge dividends – anticipate rather than react.
- ◆ If you believe that what you are doing is substantive and right, then transparency and open communication are your friends.
- ◆ The key to a culture of innovation is leadership with the courage to underwrite the successes and failures of subordinates.
- ◆ We can accomplish our missions faster and cheaper while still meeting our legal and regulatory obligations and our quality standards.
- ◆ The Corps can be as trusted and valued a leader in environmental protection as it is in water resource management.
- ◆ Focus energy on the important things first – an organization can only do well a finite number of new initiatives at any time.
- ◆ The difference between good and great lies in the collective and individual attitudes we bring to our work, to our partners, and to each other.

Exploring a career in the deep



Story and photos by Amy Echols, Public Affairs Office

Rick Benoit, Portland District dive coordinator and dive safety officer, displayed diving equipment and told stories of rewarding underwater work to eighth-graders at Dexter McCarty Middle School in Gresham, Ore., on Feb. 25.

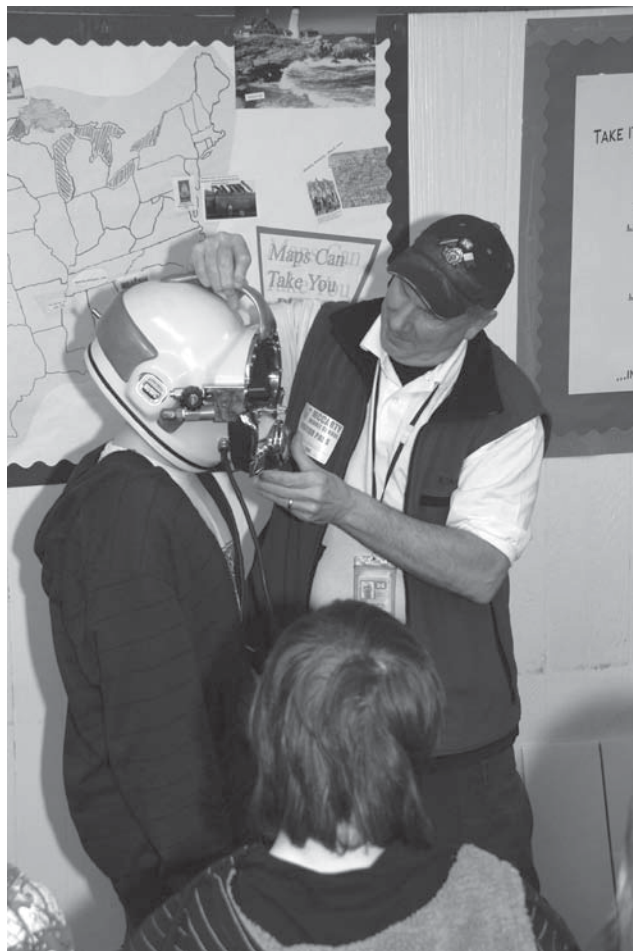
As part of the career exploration curriculum of his social studies class, Benoit's son, Jonas, invited his father to speak about a career in military diving. A discussion of training, income, equipment and even the dangers of a career in the deep led several students to proclaim their desire to pursue a diving career.



The senior Benoit, with his son (right) looking on, lists the critical items to carry on a deep-water dive.



Benoit summarizes the training requirements of a deep-water military diver.



Students learn that the Superlite 17 helmet is heavier than it appears, at least when testing it on land.



District hosts area students

Story and photos by Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

Portland District and the Portland post of the Society of American Military Engineers hosted nearly 50 students at Robert Duncan Plaza Feb. 20 to celebrate Engineer Day.

District Commander Col. Steven R. Miles welcomed the visitors and challenged them to look at how engineering affects our everyday lives. The sunglasses we wear, the bridges we cross, the fabric in our clothes – all are available to us thanks to an engineer.

After an introduction to the Corps by Lance Helwig, Engineering and Construction Division, the students split into six groups and visited presentations and hands-on activities that highlighted many of the Corps' missions.

"We wanted to offer the students a chance to explore the world of engineering," said Engineer Day project manager Mike Roll, Hydroelectric Design Center. "All of the students are interested in science and engineering, so our intent was to show them how many choices there are when they begin their college careers."

Miles spent the day visiting the presentations and interacting with the visitors.

"Knowing the Corps is encouraging young engineers is very satisfying," Miles said. "Who knows? One of these students may apply for the Corps' Engineer in Training program in a few years."

SAME members and District employees joined the students after the presentations for a pizza lunch, where SAME members set up informational displays to explain their companies' duties.

*Station #6: Hydropower generation
Presented by Waylon Bowers, Hydroelectric Design Center*



*Station #3: Hydrographic surveys
Presented by Mel Littell, Operations Division*



Students for Engineer Day



*Dam operation model
by Bob Ford, Operations Division*



*Station #2: Water Quality
Presented by Tina Lundell,
Engineering & Construction
Division*

Division



*Station #1: Structures (bridge building)
Presented by Matt Hanson, Engineering & Construction Division*





Spring offers “unspoken invitation” to Corps recreation sites

By Erica Jensen, Public Affairs Office

Have you ever noticed that those who live in Oregon and southwest Washington never have a hard time getting outside once the sun finally appears, turning the sky from gray to bright sunny blue?

Neighborhoods and parks, empty of human traffic over the winter, suddenly fill up with dog walkers, families with strollers, joggers and bike riders. Roads become crowded with weekend traffic carrying travelers to recreation destinations all over the Pacific Northwest – the coast, the mountains or somewhere in between.

Most of us have a list of favorite places in mind to visit – outdoor escapades to achieve before next winter sets in, locking us once again in our homes and offices.

Are any of the Portland District’s recreation areas included on your list of preferred destinations? Did you know that the Corps manages more than 80 recreation areas around Oregon and southwest Washington that are just waiting for winter-weary travelers to come and visit?

“The Corps is the largest provider of water-based recreation in the country. It’s one of our primary missions and we want people to get out and enjoy our lands,” said Melissa Rinehart, Natural Resource Management Section.

Now, your first argument might be that after working all week you just don’t have the time to get out on the weekends – even if it is for fun.

But there are some really cool adventures to be had at Corps recreation areas. And a quick visit to the Corps Lakes Gateway Web site at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/states.cfm?state=OR> will help you plan anything from short day trips to longer adventures at any one of the District’s parks or lakes.

What about a visit to Celilo Park near The Dalles Lock and Dam? It’s a great place for windsurfing and has a beautiful, shady day-use area for picnicking. Or, you could plan a kayak trip on Fern Ridge Lake, where you’ll see an enormous variety of migratory and local birds.

If you live in the Rogue River area, you could pack a lunch, bike around Lost Creek Lake and see some incredible scenery that’s only visible from the trail.



Eleven miles of trails wind around Lost Creek Lake, making it easy for hikers and bikers to view wildlife that call the forest home.

All of these areas are just an hour or two drive from one of the District’s projects in Oregon.

“Last year we had more than 9 million visitors at our parks, and we want our employees to be tourists, too, experiencing our lakes with the fresh perspective of a tourist seeing them for the first time,” said Rinehart.

However, with today’s economy at an all-time low some people might say – quite legitimately – that they just don’t have the extra cash for recreation equipment – bikes, kayaks, boats, fishing gear.

“Getting outdoors doesn’t have to require a lot of money. You don’t even have to do anything. Just go outside and enjoy the sound of the birds,” said Rinehart. “But if you do decide to go somewhere, Cottage Grove Lake is a wonderful place for the entire family. There are some great picnic areas and campgrounds right on the lake and our parks rangers even do campfire programs at night in the summer, which is a big hit with the kids.”

According to Recreation.gov, campground fees are only \$10 to \$15 a night, which makes this a relatively inexpensive trip for most – just a little gas and fees.



A variety of parks and access points around Fern Ridge Lake offer picnicking, swimming, fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing.

Still, some folks just don’t want to mix business and pleasure and think that visiting one of the Corps recreation areas would be like going in to work.

How many times have you planned a trip and gone just to that one place? Travel Oregon, an online site, offers information about all of Oregon’s travel destinations – it covers the entire state and includes lots of advice about where to go and eat along the way, and even provides the most scenic driving route to get there. Many of the Corps recreation areas are listed along with lots of other travel options along the way.

For instance, you could plan a trip to Bonneville Lock and Dam, then go right next door to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish hatchery and



Cottage Grove Lake offers boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, picnicking and camping.

see Herman, a 10-foot sturgeon. Wahclella Falls is also located off the same exit and is a beautiful 2.5 mile hike. You could end your day with a short drive into Cascade Locks for mile-high ice cream cones or for burgers accompanied by great views of the Columbia River.

Every one of the Corps’ recreation areas in Oregon and southwest Washington is unique – and all offer scenic beauty, varied outdoor recreation activities and fun times for visitors.

“There’s nothing like getting outside and breathing fresh clean air. It just lifts your spirits,” said Rinehart.

So as the sky turns from gray to blue and tender daffodils poke their heads up and new leaves burst forth, consider them your unspoken invitation to get out and visit your favorite Portland District recreation area.



Wahclella Falls is a 2.5 mile hike that can be done with a day trip to Bonneville Lock and Dam.

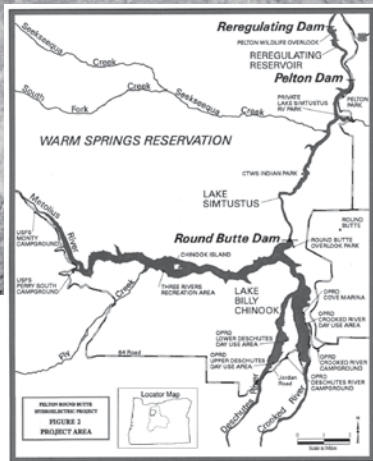


RECREATION

Corps of Engineers Photos



Sharing new technology creates partnerships and happier fish



Story and photos by Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

Lake Billy Chinook in central Oregon has been a popular recreation getaway for campers and water enthusiasts since Round Butte Dam was constructed in 1964.

While humans enjoy the lake's scenic beauty, fish have found passing the dam a challenge.

Portland General Electric signed an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs that authorized construction of the Pelton Round Butte Hydropower Project at the confluence of the Crooked, Deschutes and Metolius rivers.

The project consists of three dams: Round Butte, Pelton Dam, and a small unnamed dam used to balance river flows to meet peak power demands.

All three dams included upstream and downstream fish passage facilities, but when the project began operating, engineers found that water flow had changed in unforeseen ways.

Colder water flowing down the Metolius River began forming eddies, and worse yet, flowed back upstream into the Crooked River, making it difficult for fish to find their way downstream. Additionally, the lower Deschutes River became colder, which affected fish migration.

With no immediate solution, the owners closed the fish passages in 1968 and built a fish hatchery at the base of Round Butte Dam.

PGE and the tribes never gave up on solving the fish passage problem, however. After several years of collaboration, they developed a combined temperature control and fish collection tower that will restore water flows above the dam and water temperature below it.

Both sections of the new structure were installed in water, said Chad Croft, PGE's Round Butte project engineer.

"The (bottom structure's) 1.3 million pounds of steel was constructed entirely on a floating barge and set into place 270 feet below the surface of the reservoir - within one inch of its designed location," Croft said. "The gaps between the [bottom section] and intake were then successfully sealed so that no gap is larger than one-quarter inch, which complies with NOAA smolt criteria."

Equally important, the bottom section of the tower completely screens the power generation flows so no fish can enter, he added.

"This is really cutting-edge technology," said George Miller, Planning and Project Management Branch. "Not only were they able to construct the two sections modularly, the temperature control tower was installed without having to lower the reservoir levels."

The fish collection facility is located 700 feet from the dam and will mimic natural river temperature and flow conditions to attract fish. The fish will be gathered and sorted by size and piped

into a fish handling facility, where they will be transported downstream. Returning adult fish will use existing fish ladders and truck transportation during spawning season. Future plans call for updating passage facilities at Pelton Dam and constructing new routes to help fish move past the dams with less human intervention.

“From an engineering and construction perspective, this is an excellent opportunity to share new technologies and ideas,” said Lance Helwig, Design Branch. “With the Willamette Valley Biological Opinion focusing on fish recovery and enhanced fish passage in coming years, sharing information and learning from others will help us design the next generation of facilities.”

“The work that the Warm Springs Tribe has jointly executed with PGE is an impressive example of cooperating to achieve a common goal,” said Col. Steven R. Miles, Portland District commander. “The Portland District is committed to finding and using the best science and technology available to enhance fish passage and we very much appreciated the invitation for technical exchange.”

Like PGE, the Corps is strengthening relationships with its tribal neighbors.

“The tribes can help solve water resource challenges and they can assist with the planning, operating and maintenance of programs and projects,” said Paul Cloutier, Portland District tribal liaison. “The Corps realizes that tribal interests are not restricted to only cultural resources.”

The Corps has seen success working with tribal partners on projects such as Celilo Village and lamprey passage systems, Miles said. “The



Lance Helwig, Engineering and Construction Division, discusses the Round Butte project with Portland District Commander Col. Steven R. Miles, center, and Kevin Brice, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management.



After PGE completes the fish handling facility above water, a barge will tow the section to its permanent location and install it without lowering the dam water levels.

benefit of visiting partner projects is to learn and collaborate on innovative solutions to our challenging water resource environment, which will remain a priority of Corps projects.”

The Pelton Round Butte Hydropower Project is located on the Warm Springs reservation, so Native American engineers, biologists and wildlife managers work with PGE to restore habitat along the Deschutes River. The tribe and PGE are working on a three-year program to improve spawning grounds and safe places where the fry can grow.

Warm Springs tribal members are eagerly anticipating one fish’s return: sockeye salmon, a favorite native food, missing above the dam since the fish passage closed 40 years ago.

Chinook and steelhead smolts are expected to use the new fish handling facility this spring, Croft said. “The chinook and steelhead adults should begin returning from the ocean to spawn above the dam in the next two or three years.” Sockeye adults may arrive around that time, he added.

“It’s been 10 years or longer that we’ve been talking about this,” said Robert Brunoe, Warm Springs general manager for natural resources. “Having fish above the dam – we’ll see fish we haven’t seen for years, the sockeye in particular. Tribal membership and the tribal council are excited about sockeye returning.”

It will be several years before the project upgrades are completed, but the new temperature control tower and fish handling facility have already offered benefits: new fish passage, restored water temperatures and new opportunities to share technologies and strengthen relationships.



NEW TECHNOLOGY



Division commander tours Portland District projects

District leaders led Division Commander Brig. Gen. Bill Rapp on a tour of many of the District's projects March 11-12.

Rapp took an aerial tour of the District's 11 jetty projects and dredge mission on the Oregon coast on March 11, and also visited the Rogue River Basin project's Elk Creek fish passage corridor and William L. Jess Dam.

He visited the Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day projects on March 12, observing some of the repairs to the Columbia River navigation lock system.

The tour was timely, as Rapp will soon visit Washington, D.C., to represent the region's projects and budget needs.



Division Commander Brig. Gen. Bill Rapp visits with (from left to right) Andrew Rapp, James Carlisle, Dave Cummings and Dean Tilden of the Corps survey vessel K.H. Patterson in Coos Bay, Ore.

Photo by Col. Steven R. Miles

Corps employees contribute to The Oregon Ball



Story and photo by Melissa Rinehart,
Natural Resources Section

The Oregon Ball gave tribute to our great state, with special emphasis on those who serve our state and nation in the military. More than 900 guests filled two floors of the Salem Conference Center Feb. 14.

Robin Norris, natural resource specialist at Bonneville Lock and Dam, portrayed Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair, the first female doctor in Oregon, known both for her medical practice and work in the suffrage movement in Oregon.

Norris wore an original dress and bonnet from 1885. Fortunately, no corset was required. "I already love my job, but when opportunities like this come up, it's icing on the cake!" said Norris.

The Corps of Engineers is an official partner of Oregon's sesquicentennial celebrations. District natural resource manager Melissa Rinehart is a member of the Oregon 150 Anniversary planning committee, and will continue working with the board of directors and other partners to bring historic and entertaining events to state residents throughout the year.



Col. Steven R. and Laura Miles (right) and Lt. Col. Jose and Suzanne Aguilar joined "Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair" (Robin Norris, center) at The Oregon Ball in Salem Feb. 14.

PAO wins, places, shows in journalism competition

By Scott Clemans, Public Affairs Office

Three Portland District Public Affairs Office entries won awards in the USACE Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Contest in February.

Public Affairs Specialist Amy Echols won first place in the News Category for her story about repairing the Foster Dam spillway gates in the November-December 2008 issue of Corps'pondent.

Echols' winning story is available on the District Web site at <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pa/cp/2008-12/inspections.asp>.

Portland District won second place in the Outstanding Initiatives in New Media Category for its Facebook site, which Public Affairs Chief Matt Rabe created in December.

Facebook is a popular social-networking Web site that allows individuals and organizations to share news, photos, videos and other information with friends, family and coworkers.

Corps'pondent won third place in the Newsletters Category.

Judges evaluated the January-February 2008 issue edited by Diana Fredlund and the November-December 2008 issue edited by Scott Clemans. They are available on the District Web site at <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pa/cp/home.asp>.



District mourns loss of Bonneville park ranger

By Pat Barry, Bonneville Lock & Dam Project

David Weiss, park ranger and environmental educator at Bonneville Lock and Dam, passed away unexpectedly in his home the first week of March. David was loved by all for his sense of humor and admired for his dedication as an interpreter and environmental educator.

After graduating from The Evergreen State College, David spent most of his career at Bonneville Lock and Dam. He also worked for the Corps at the Bay Model in Sausalito, Calif., and for the U.S. Forest Service's Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

David served on the board of directors of the Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute and was active in a program that provided environmental education for area schools. David also was part of a marimba band and played guitar. When he was not playing music you could often find him attending a concert, dancing or acting in plays for a local theater group.

David was an accomplished skier, and also loved to hike, bike and kayak.

David was loved and appreciated by his co-workers for his sense of humor, willingness to help



and dedication. He could handle any audience. He used to say that when the bureaucratic tasks at work got to him, giving an interpretive program improved his mood and got him back where he needed to be.

One of the e-mails we received said, "In 2006 we traveled to Oregon. Katie was 2+ at the time and we worked our way into the (visitor center office). Katie was tired and scared and started to cry. David got down on his knees at a comfortable distance and offered her a small soccer ball with a Corps water safety message on it. It took some time, but he cracked her shell and had her smiling AND he even managed to get the message across! We still have the ball and Katie remembers David by name and the event in which she got that ball."

Among many accomplishments, David received the 2007 Hiram M. Chittenden Award, the highest award offered by the Corps for excellence in interpretation. He was a master at connecting people to their world. He was a member of the National Association for Interpretation for many years. He also lived what he preached, driving a hybrid car and living simply.

David's family requests that donations be made in his name to the Columbia George Ecology Institute, Box 1104, Hood River, OR 97031.

There is a memoriam for David on the National Association for Interpretation Web site at http://www.interpnet.com/about_nai/david_weiss.shtml. You may add your own message, if you wish.



David with Lewis & Clark exhibit and school group.
Corps of Engineers Photo

IN MEMORIAM